



DOING MORE FOR KIDS

MANY OF SEATTLE'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND

Seattle spends about \$40 million on children and youth services for 85,000 kids. Overall Seattle's children are doing well when compared to other major cities. But some, especially low-income children and children of color, are struggling.

- Many children entering kindergarten have serious deficiencies in pre-reading and pre-number skills, with minority and low-income kids falling behind the most.
- In spring 2002, fewer than 28% of all Seattle Public School 10th graders met standards on all four WASL tests. Results for students of color were disproportionately lower.
- Seattle Public Schools data shows that almost 39% of students in the class of 2001 did not graduate on-time from high school. The numbers are worse for children of color. For example, more than half of Latino students do not graduate on time.
- From 1996 to 2000, the infant mortality rate for African Americans was three times the rate for whites and the disparity is increasing.

MAYOR NICKELS INSISTS ON RESULTS

Mayor Nickels' proposed budget preserves the city's ongoing investment in programs for children and youth. But when revenues are tight, it's especially important to shift the discussion from spending levels to achieving results. Mayor Nickels' budget for programs for young people sets clear goals in education, health and safety and measurable outcomes. Mayor Nickels will insist on progress or funding will be shifted to more effective programs.

THE MAYOR'S GOALS:

- Improve school readiness (improved day care, nutritional programs, family support programs) and academic success (better performance on WASL tests and higher graduation rates).
- Hold accountable city department and non-profits who receive funding

from the city. Accountability will be based on various measurable outcomes/targets, such as graduation rates, juvenile delinquency statistics, WASL scores, etc.

- Focus city resources on programs that work.

HOW TO GET RESULTS

1. Focus attention on city-funded programs targeted at youth. Insist that program directors provide /require those programs to establish performance measures. The City will evaluate which programs achieve the best results.
2. Contract with Communities that Care (CTC) to help identify and quantify the needs of children who have the greatest challenges in specific neighborhoods. Parents suggest which programs work best for their kids. The City will establish a pilot program in at least two communities where need is greatest.
3. Hold agencies accountable by tracking, measuring and reporting on progress using COMPASS, a nationally recognized tool for problem solving and decision making. COMPASS will allow the City to set specific performance targets in the areas of school readiness, academic achievement, health status, and youth safety and security.

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON PARTNERSHIPS

Success depends on everyone – City government, parents, youth and community members – joining together to focus on what works. A shared effort helps “raise the floor” so that a greater number of our youth enter adulthood with the tools and confidence they need to live fuller lives.

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